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A

LETTER

From the

PATRIOTS of *Great-Britain.*

(Price Six-pence)

BRITISH MUSEUM

A LETTER From the PATRIOTS OF *GREAT-BRITAIN* To the EMPEROR.

LONDON:

Printed for A. MOORE, near St, *Paul's*. MDCCXXX.

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TO HIS

Imperial MAJESTY.

May it please your Imperial Majesty,

WE, your Majesty's faithful Friends of *Great Britain*; *Caleb D'Anvers*, Craftsman; *Henry Bull*, Examiner; *Nat. Fog, Esq*; Journalist; *W.W.* President; *and the whole Club of People calling themselves* PATRIOTS; beg Leave to address your Majesty on this important Juncture.

We

We desire to assure your Majesty, that we have been no Way instrumental to any of the Measures taken by our Government, which may seem to distress your Imperial Counsels; which have disunited *Spain* from you; and utterly frustrated those glorious Designs you had laid of *rivaling Us in our* East-India *Trade*; and of adding to your Dominions, that little inconsiderable Spot call'd ALL ITALY: A Corner of which was formerly equal to the Conquest of the whole World. So far from being aiding and abetting to these Measures, we do, in the strongest Terms, assure your Majesty, that our utmost Efforts have not been wanting to prevent them.

But least your Majesty may be misled into a Suspicion of our Sincerity, by reflecting, that what hath been done, has been highly for the Interest of our Country; we do solemnly aver that *we regard no Interest, but that of our private Selves*; and that, unless we can sit at the Helm of our Government, we are resolv'd to *sink* it, *that those may be blamed who are there*.

As

As for any *Love* we bear to our *Country*; We may ſay with *Socrates*, MUNDANI SUMUS; and *that Prince has us who bids us faireſt.* Thus *one* of our *Club* had a conſiderable Share in *betraying this Nation* to *France* in the *late Queen's Reign*, and thus *We* would *betray* it to your *Imperial Majeſty* at this preſent.

Nor let the Name of Patriot ſhock your Ear: As the greateſt *Rebels* to *God* have always appear'd *under the Cloak of Religion*; ſo the *greateſt Enemies of their Country*, have always appear'd under that of *Patriotiſm.* And tho' we may enjoy the Praiſe and Thanks of our own People, whom our *Words* have *perſuaded* of our Sincerity, we ſhall not labour under your Cenſure, whom our *Actions* muſt have *convinc'd* of the contrary; and to thoſe we ſhall appeal for our Juſtification.

If your Majeſty will pleaſe to turn your Eyes backwards, no farther than the *Secret Treaty of Alliance offenſive and defenſive, enter'd into between*

your

your Majeſty and the King of Spain *at* Vienna; which was immediately productive of the Siege of *Gibraltar*; and caus'd thoſe vigorous Reſolutions of Defence which were taken here, and that ſpeedy Diſpatch of two Fleets into two different Parts of the World, by the *moſt ſurprizing Induſtry of our Adminiſtration*; and which, in all Probability, prevented the Succeſs of your Imperial Deſigns. If your Majeſty will (we ſay) conſider our Conduct on that Occaſion, what Volumes were exhauſted to prove that there was no ſuch Treaty! What Dirt thrown on a very *honourable and learned Writer* for mentioning it! What Arguments were us'd to *provoke* the King of *Spain* to the *vigorous Attack* of *Gibraltar*, and our own People to the Attack of the Miniſtry, by an Inſinuation that the Defence of it was neglected, and that it muſt be either loſt or deliver'd. Nay, to ſuch an Height, had we rais'd this Perſuaſion, that Wagers were laid *with great Odds* on our Side; and at the ſame Time that many of our *Scriblers* ow'd their *Bread* to *this Occaſion*, an

honeſt

honeſt Citizen had like to have ow'd his *Beef* to it as long as he had liv'd.

In Order to accompliſh our Ends, we diſpatch'd our *truſty and good Friend the Duke of Wharton* to the Courts of *Vienna* and *Spain*, with ſtrict Injunctions, to give all poſſible Aſſiſtance to *Your Imperial and Catholick Majeſties*, in Order to the greater diſtreſſing the *Britiſh Counſels*; and that he ſhould tranſmit hither ſuch *Papers* as he thought *inſtrumental* thereto: All which we have ſince cauſed to be printed in our ſeveral Pamphlets and Journals. And that we might not be accuſed of Idleneſs at home, we appointed *ſuch* of our *Members* as had *any Eſtate of their own*, and had not *yet* been *attainted*, to raiſe Clamours *within Doors*: And *ſuch others of our Club* as laboured under the aforeſaid Misfortunes, but were skilled in the Arts of Sophiſtry and Ridicule, to do the like *without*, by falſe Repreſentations and malicious Innuendos; with Inſtructions to interſperſe in all their Writings, *at proper Diſtances*, and in *Italick Characters*, *certain Magical Words*, ſuch as, *Corruption*,

tion, *bad*, *weak*, *deſigning*, *undeſigning*, *bubbling*, *bubbled*, *knaviſh*, *fooliſh*, *ignorant*, *artful Miniſter*, *Norfolk Steward*, *Norfolk Dumpling*, *Mr. Lynn*, *Robert*, *Robin*, *Bob*, &c.

In *one Pamphlet*, were repreſented the great Advantages ariſing from our Commerce with *Spain*; and how contrary to our Intereſt a War there muſt prove. In *another*, we were called *paſſive*, and blamed for not beating their Towns about their Ears. In *one Paper* we railed at ſending any Fleet to the *Weſt-Indies* at all, and repreſented the ſhutting up the Galleons as a monſtrous Hoſtility; and in another we abuſed the Fleet, or thoſe who gave the Orders to it, for not taking them: tho' by ſuch a Meaſure we muſt have ruined great Numbers of our own Merchants (who had large Effects in them) and have drawn the whole *European* World upon us.

At length, being obliged to retreat from the *Indies* with *our Fleet*, and from *Gibraltar* with the *Spaniſh Army*; We laid the *Scene* at *Soiſſons*.

We

We did all, in our Power, to ridicule our Plenipotentiaries there, and to leſſen them in the Opinion of the other Miniſters; that by exploding the Weakneſs and Ignorance of our Government at home, and our Negotiations abroad, we might encourage the *Treating Powers* to inſiſt on the higheſt Terms; and then abuſe our Miniſters at home for accepting them, or involving their Country in a War, by not being able to procure better.

After having diverted ourſelves and our Neighbours for ſome Time at *Soiſſons*, we immediately repaired to *Spithead*, on the very firſt News of a Fleet there. What a Subject of Raillery was this? What *Craftſmen* and Ballads were written upon it? Though to this very Fleet, *pacifick as it was*, it is probable, our Country owes the Accompliſhment, at leaſt, the ſo *ſpeedy Accompliſhment* of it's Deſires; and that the Money, as well *Dutch* as *Engliſh*, which hath been ſpent on our *own Shores*, and among our *own People*, without the Expence of Blood, hath had as *powerful an Effect*, and carry'd as much

Terror into the Boſoms of our Enemies, as if thoſe Preparations had been proſecuted with all the Vigour and all the Horrors of War which we preſcribed.

But notwithſtanding all theſe our Clamours, all our Arguments and Endeavours, at laſt the Treaty of *Seville* was concluded with honourable and (with Sorrow we ſay it) advantageous Terms to this Nation. Our Poſſeſſions are ſecured, and full and ample Reparations for our Merchants ſtipulated. What could the People of *England* have hoped, have deſired more! Or, what could the Patriots of *England* have dreaded equal to this? This ſeemed indeed an entire Overthrow.

However, we reſolved not yet to yield: Mr. *Henry Bull*, *Examiner*, was immediately deputed to raiſe Cavils at this Treaty, and abuſe the *Obſervations* upon it. How well he hath diſcharged this Office, we leave your Majeſty to judge, *for whoſe Sake* the Examination was chiefly written, and to whom we have ſent a faithful Copy thereof: humbly

humbly hoping you will follow the Advice he gives you therein; and then we may yet hope to ſee *all Italy in your Poſſeſſion.*

And give us Leave to aſſure you, no Diligence ſhall be wanting on our Part, to effect ſo happy and ſo wiſh'd an Event: No Arguments, no Inſinuations, either *within or without Doors*, ſhall be omitted, whereby we may *diſtreſs the Government*, and raiſe Domeſtick Enemies againſt it. Our Charges of *Ignorance* and *Corruption* ſhall be repeated; Hiſtory ſhall be reſearch'd for Villains; and if we can find no other *Sejanus*, no other *Wolſey*, new Parallels ſhall be drawn from them, or new Villains be created by our own Imaginations. Nay, *Bull* ſhall draw *his own Character* and ſubſcribe it *Robin.*

Farther, to encourage your Imperial Majeſty to this laudable and glorious Undertaking, a *Loan* ſhall be ſet on Foot in *this very City*, whereby you may be enabled to march your Forces againſt our Allies. In ſhort, nothing ſhall be omitted which may tend to

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diſtreſs our Country, or to put our *Italian Trade* entirely into your Majeſty's Hands, and raiſe you into a Maritime Power capable of diſputing with us any Branch of our Trade whatſoever.

In te noſtra Salus poſita eſt.

Your Majeſty is now the Patriot's only Refuge, and his only Hope. Should you accede to the Treaty of *Seville*, the Happineſs of our Country (as that Wretch the *Obſervator*, the chief Author of this Happineſs, has it) would be compleated; and I do not ſee to whom, unleſs to the *Grand Turk*, we could fly for Succour.

Be not diſcouraged by the apparent Strength of our Allies. Be not alarmed with any Dread leſt *Spain*, *France*, *Holland* and *Great-Britain* ſhould, in ſtrict Conjunction, and in Oppoſition to any hoſtile Meaſures taken by your Majeſty, not only ſtop your *Progreſs in Italy*, but affect *your Hereditary Dominions* alſo. Theſe Things *may be*, *probably*, ſuggeſted to you at *Vienna*

enna; but *certainly* they *will be hinted* to you from hence *by the Miniſtry and their Friends.* Yet what Weight can they bear, when we preſume to aſſure your Majeſty, that within a ſhort Time *we* ſhall be the Miniſtry; and then we ſhall ſpeedily *undo* what hath been the Labour of ſo many Years, and we ſhall (God willing) attempt to do what will be probably the Labour of as many Ages.

Firſt, We intend to compel the King of *France* to demoliſh *Dunkirk* (not the Fort and Harbour only, which were ſtipulated by the Treaty of *Utrecht* to be demoliſhed, and which, tho' Nature more than Art hath in ſome Meaſure, repaired, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath ſolemnly promiſed, nay, and ordered to be re-demoliſhed) but *we* purpoſe, with God's Aſſiſtance, for ſure human Power will not enable us to do it, to level the whole Town with the Earth; and by the Help of ſome neighbouring Hills, which we intend to convey thither, ſo to block up the Harbour, that it ſhall be impoſſible not only for a *Chaloupe*, but an Egg-ſhell to enter into it.

And

And if in Oppoſition to theſe our juſt Meaſures, the King of *France* ſhall dare to diſturb us in our Work, we will immediately declare War againſt the ſaid King; which we ſhall, as we muſt, ſupport by Land: Nor can we be reaſonably ſuppoſed unable to do this, having in our Army, *Invalids* included, not much *leſs than Twenty Thouſand Men*, and his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty not much *more than ten times that Number*.

At the ſame Time we are carrying on this Work in *France* we do not intend to lye ſtill in *Spain*; we ſhall diſpatch our Ambaſſador to *Madrid*, with ſtrict Orders to his Catholick Majeſty, that he doth inſtantly reſign over all Pretenſions to *Gibraltar* and the Iſland of *Minorca*, in ſuch Terms as we ſhall pleaſe to exhibit: and on his Refuſal we will ſend a Fleet to batter down *Cadiz* and *Barcelona*, and to convey the ſaid King to *London*, where we will try him by a Court of Judicature erected for that Purpoſe.

And for the more abſolute and more immediate Conqueſt of our Enemies, we

ſhall

ſhall equip another Fleet (well ſtock'd with Marines) with which we intend to drive the *Spaniards* out of the *Weſt-Indies*, which we ſhall ſeize to our own Uſe.

Nor are our Hands already ſo full of Buſineſs, but that we might take this Opportunity of erecting *Parma*, *Placentia*, and *Tuſcany* into a Common-wealth. But in Regard to your Majeſty, and provided you eſpouſe our Cauſe, we ſhall omit this in your Favour.

But that we may not ſeem to regard Allies, or to depend on any Hands but our own, we ſhall likewiſe take away the Liberty of the Herring-Fiſhery from the *Dutch*; for which Duty we ſhall always keep a conſiderable Fleet, not exceeding two thouſand Sail. Or, if this be not effectual, we ſhall employ that Number to extirpate the *Dutch* out of *Europe*; as being a People whoſe Intereſts are entirely oppoſite to ours.

Here we beg leave to repreſent to your Majeſty, that we would entirely

overthrow all your Hopes of an *Eaſt India Trade*, by burning *Oſtend* with all Expedition. But out of the tendereſt Concern for your Majeſty's Welfare and the moſt certain Expectation of a *reciprocal Return* from you, we ſhall ſuffer you to live unmoleſted, and take you into our Protection.

Although your Imperial Majeſty may ſlight the Alliance of a weak Nation, who do their Buſineſs by Treaties, and have the Humility to put themſelves on a Footing with the reſt of Mankind; yet ſure you will fly with due Exultation into the Arms of ſuch Knight-Errants as we ſhall be; Men who intend to conquer and trample upon the whole World.

Romantick as theſe Deſigns may ſeem, we appeal to our Writings for theſe four Years laſt paſt for the Truth of them; where your Majeſty will find every one of theſe Steps recommended by us as juſt, lawful and practicable.

But leaſt your Majeſty, out of your Imperial Wiſdom, deſigning to embrace

theſe our Offers, ſhould by a fatal Miſtake diſappoint all our Meaſures, while you intend to accompliſh them; We beg Leave to put you in Mind, that they are not the *People* of *England*, but the *Patriots*, whom you are to oblige. This we thought proper to mention, leſt you ſhould be prevail'd on to accede to the *Treaty of Seville*; imagining that what would compleat the Happineſs of his Country, muſt compleat the Satisfaction of every *Engliſh-man*.

To obviate this Opinion, and to ſhew you the Bottom of our Deſire, we ſhall preſume to let your Majeſty into the Secrets of our Conſtitution; for we ſhall never ſcruple in the leaſt to lay open the Sores of our Country, when they can any way ſerve to accompliſh our Ends.

Faction is the Alloy of Liberty: It rages in every free State, in Proportion to the Degree of Freedom which it enjoys: And perhaps, as no one Nation upon Earth does, or ever did, by its Conſtitution, enjoy a more real Liberty than ours, ſo none hath been more

torn by Domeſtick Feuds and Factions. We ſhall not lead your Majeſty through a long Detail of our bloody Annals: Where the Wars between *John* and his Barons, or the Houſes of *York* and *Lancaſter*, or King *Charles* the Firſt and his Parliament, are little to our Purpoſe. We ſhall begin with the Reſtoration of King *Charles* the Second; at which Time there were among us two different Parties, which have remain'd ever ſince. The one acting on Principles tending to eſtabliſh an abſolute Monarchy in Church and State, were ſtigmatiz'd by the Name of *Tories*. The other, who were for maintaining the Liberties of the People, againſt the Encroachments of both, were ſtiled *Whigs*.

Ever ſince that Time, theſe two Parties have alternately emulated each other in Power. When our Prince hath aim'd at deſtroying the Liberties of the People, the *Tories* have triumph'd; when at preſerving them, the *Whigs*.

But

But no ſooner hath either of theſe ſucceeded at Court, than immediately the contrary Party hath reſorted to Lampoons and Libels. And that a due Ballance of Power may be maintain'd, whoever hath the Ear of the Prince is ſure to have the Gaul of the People; whoſe natural Averſion to Power is eaſily enflam'd by the Pens of the malignant Party; and the moſt idle Inſinuations, and moſt monſtrous and improbable Falſehoods, paſs for current Truths with the deluded Multitude. Tho' here we muſt confeſs to your Majeſty, the *Whigs* have been ſomething our Superiours in Generoſity; having never ſhut up the Preſs againſt us, as we have againſt them. Nay, they have been the chief Maintainers and Aſſerters of this Liberty, even at a Time when they were libell'd by it, and while we repreſented them as aiming at its Overthrow.

Notwithſtanding the natural Rancour we bear to one another, no ſooner does any one think his Services not ſufficiently rewarded, or his Equals preferred

ferred above him, than he quits his own Party, and is gladly receiv'd by the other. This I ſpeak in Favour of the *Tories*. As for the *Whigs*, they are not good Chriſtians enough to receive our revolted Members; of which Mr. *Henry Bull*, Examiner, is a notorious Inſtance.

Thus, may it pleaſe your Majeſty, we have ſhewn you, that it is not for the Intereſt, but the Command of our Country we contend; and that it is not the advancing our Country, but the advancing us above it, by which our Friendſhip is to be gain'd. For alaſs! were the Good of That our only Care, we ſhould not have ſpent ſo much Ink and Labour: We ſhould not have waded through ſo much Malice and Falſehood, to oppoſe a Miniſtry, who againſt a Torrent of Faction and Prejudice by us rais'd at Home, notwithſtanding the Diſadvantage of an indebted Nation, and the Strength of a combin'd Intereſt abroad, have reſtor'd us to a flouriſhing Trade, have procur'd for us an honourable and advantageous Peace, and reviv'd the Hopes of our being

being once again an happy and a glorious People.

But alaſs! *Hinc illæ Lacrymæ.* Where are all our Prophecies of Ruin and Miſery? Where are our Charges of Ignorance and Corruption? The Happineſs which we foreſee to the Publick, brings *Shame and Diſgrace* to the Patriot; and that SUN which ſhines ſo benignly on our Country, *ſcortches us to Death with his Beams.*

Little did many of us intend, when we firſt entered into this Oppoſition, to have gone as far as we now find our-ſelves, or that an original private Pique and Spleen could have driven us thither. But the Ways of Faction, are (as *Cicero* ſays of all Vice) *In Lubrico incitataque ſemel, proclivè labuntur ſuſtinerique nullo modo poſſunt.* Little did we imagine into whoſe Arms, and into what Deſigns we flung our ſelves, when we firſt revolted. When we aroſe up againſt *David*, little did we apprehend fighting againſt *Saul.* But Reflection now comes too late,

and

and we muſt now engage others under thoſe *falſe Colours*, by which we have ourſelves been taken. We muſt perſuade the honeſt, but ſhallow Herd, that we are *Friends to an Eſtabliſhment*, whilſt we act in *Concert with its avowed Enemies*; and that we have a *tender Regard for the Temple*, whilſt we are *pulling down its Pillars*. We muſt endeavour to inculcate into the well-meaning Party, that we aim at private Perſons only, while we are darting at the higheſt: And to amuſe and lull them with Deſigns againſt a Miniſtry, whilſt we are combining ourſelves with profeſs'd and approv'd *Jacobites*; whileſt we defend the Meaſures of *Men who have been publickly attainted by their Country*; and own them as our Friends, who, whileſt they had Power, openly, and ſince their Diſgrace have, by all ſecret Means, attempted to place a POPISH PRETENDER on the Throne of theſe Realms. What muſt we imitate, but Men who cry *Fire* in the Streets, while they are themſelves the Incendiaries; and while the poor gulled Wretches, come to us with

with Acknowledgements for our having alarmed them from their Repoſe, we are reaping the Benefit of that Combuſtion which we ourſelves caus'd.

But tho' at Home, we are oblig'd to diſſemble; with your Majeſty we ſhall act openly and ſincerely. We therefore moſt humbly beg that your Majeſty will not accede to this Treaty, which muſt be attended with an entire Peace in *Europe*, and the Deſtruction of all our Hopes; nay, the Pope himſelf will probably give us up; and ſhould Don *Carlos* be ſent into *Italy*, we fear *Some-body now there* may be ſent out of it, and find no one to receive him.

And we hope we ſhall not offend your Majeſty, when, with the greateſt Humility, we preſume to aſſure you, that if, notwithſtanding all our Arguments, you ſhou'd deſert us, and accede to the *Treaty of Seville*, we ſhall diveſt you at once of all thoſe Terrors we have cloath'd you in: We ſhall ſhew, that a War may be very eaſily carried on againſt you; that you

are not worth our Alliance: In ſhort, we ſhall ſay as many Things againſt you as we have againſt *France*; who was formerly as great a Deity with us as your Majeſty can be now; for we do not think ourſelves oblig'd to ſpeak or write in Defence of any Power longer than they are the Inſtruments of executing our Purpoſes; nay, the Moment they become uſeful to the oppoſite Party, WE (the PATRIOTS) do hereby declare, and pronounce to the whole World, that we ſhall retract whatever we have ſaid in their Favour; and that although we ſhould have affirm'd that they are a rich and powerful Nation, we ſhall deem our ſelves at full Liberty to ridicule and contemn them, and to level them with the moſt Inſignificant; for we confidently hope, that, as we never deſcend into Particulars nor attempt any Proofs, but deal entirely in general Aſſertions, our negative Aſſertions ſhall have as much Sway as our Affirmative; and that all our Friends will relie on that Opinion, and imagine Juſtice and Truth to be on that Side which we lateſt declar'd ourſelves on.

Far,

Far, however, from us be any Diſtruſt of your Majeſty, or any Fear that you will neglect a Set of People, who offer you their Friendſhip, in direct Oppoſition to the Safety and Benefit of their own Country; and that you will provoke Men to be your Enemies, who have Boldneſs enough to contradict the moſt glaring Evidence of Truth: Men, who could look with ſtedfaſt Eyes in the Face of the Sun, and deny that he ſhines.

And here we humbly deſire to return your Majeſty our moſt hearty Thanks for the Diſturbances you have prudently fomented in the *North*; and at the ſame Time to aſſure you, that we were not wanting to improve them at home, by referring the *Heſſians* to that Quarrel, tho' they were maintained long before it happen'd.

This may ſerve as one Inſtance of what we juſt now mentioned: But ſure our Behaviour concerning *Dunkirk* is an undeniable Proof of our Audacity: Where we repreſented that

Harbour entirely repair'd by *France*, contrary to the *Treaty of Utrecht*, when it hath appear'd that what little Reparations have been made, have been moſtly by the Sea; and when his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath *promiſed, in* a ſolemn Letter to his *Britannick* Majeſty, that the Works ſhall be *immediately reduc'd to the Condition which is ſtipulated by the* Treaty of Utrecht, *and hath ſince ordered their Demolition accordingly*; and when, on a *full, long* and *impartial Hearing of this Affair*, the Houſe of Commons have voted his Majeſty an *Addreſs of Thanks on this Occaſion.*

We have been ſo often detected, that our Intereſt decays daily; and unleſs your Majeſty will reſolve on ſome vigorous Meaſures which may diſturb the Peace of *Europe*, we ſhall be ſoon forced ſhamefully to lay down our Pens. Nay, it is well if we eſcape the Puniſhment we intended for our Enemies, and be not ourſelves the *Marks of publick Vengeance.*

For what muſt the People think of ſuch of us as unjuſtly libel that very Government, by whoſe Lenity we enjoy the Privilege of breathing our native Air? Or what muſt they think of others who keep on the Maſk of *Whiggiſm*, and yet act in Concert with the moſt *notorious*, *ſcandalous*, and *attainted Jacobites*? What Puniſhment muſt a deluded Nation prepare for thoſe, who have labour'd to ſtir them up againſt a Miniſtry, which, your Majeſty very well knows, may almoſt challenge Hiſtory to produce any who have done more for their Country? And could our Writings have had their deſired Effect, not *Athens* itſelf ſhould ever have thanked her Preſervers like Us.

Thus have we laid open our whole Breaſts to your Majeſty; where you may plainly read our Deſigns, and how much we ſtudy the Preſervation of the preſent Eſtabliſhment in *Great-Britain*. And now we hope you will keep this our Addreſs inviolably ſecret, and follow the Advice we give you therein; which

which we ſhall enable you to proſecute with our utmoſt Aſſiſtance, by our uſual Methods of raiſing Clamours here. In full Confidence, therefore, of your Majeſty's good Endeavours, and with hearty and ſincere Wiſhes for your Succeſs, we beg Leave to ſubſcribe Ourſelves,

May it pleaſe your Imperial Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt obedient,
moſt devoted Friends and
Servants, in Great-Britain,

The People calling themſelves
PATRIOTS.

From the Cabal
in *Durham-Yard,*
London.

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FINIS.